



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
California State Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1834
Sacramento, CA 95825
www.ca.blm.gov



Date: February 13, 2015

Bureau of Land Management
California State Office
Report to the California State OHV Commission

Further updates on the following subjects will be provided at the next OHV Commission meeting:

- Update on 2015 Grant Submissions
- Desert District Presentation
- West Mojave Plan Amendment (WEMO), Travel Transportation Management Plans & Environmental Impact Statement Presentation

**BLM Announces Intent to Prepare Environmental Review for
Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area**

MORENO VALLEY, Calif. - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to conduct an environmental review for the Ocotillo Wells Recreation Area in Imperial County.

The BLM will prepare an environmental impact statement to analyze the efficiency and effectiveness of resource and recreation management at the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area (SVRA) and a proposed amendment to the BLM California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan. The California State Parks, who manage the SVRA through a Memorandum of Understanding, will jointly prepare an environmental impact report for their General Plan update.

Publication of the Notice of Intent initiates a public scoping period which will end April 6, 2015. During the scoping period, the BLM will solicit public comments on planning issues, environmental concerns, potential impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be included in the analysis of the proposed action.



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BLM public meetings are scheduled on the following dates:

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:30pm – 8:30pm Temecula Conference Center 41000 Main Street Temecula, CA 92590	Saturday, March 21, 2015 12:00pm – 4:00pm Ocotillo Wells SVRA Visitor Center Discovery Center Building 5172 Highway 78 Borrego Springs, CA 92004
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Comments May be submitted in writing to:

- 1) Website : <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro.html>;
- 2) Email: BLM_CA_Ocotillo_Wells_RAMP@blm.gov;
- 3) Fax: 760-337-4490;
- 4) Mail: Attn: Carrie Simmons, BLM, El Centro Field Office, 1661 S. 4th Street El Centro, CA 92243

The BLM will use the public scoping comments received to prepare the draft environmental documents to be available for public review in 2015.

For more information contact El Centro Field Office, 760-337-4400.



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King of the Hammers 2015



OHV in mid-air at King of the Hammers event in Johnson Valley (Photos by Charles Yudson and Dana Wilson, BLM)

Tens of thousands of people gathered near Yucca Valley this past week at the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Johnson Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area for the 9th Annual King of the Hammers international off-road event. For nine days the Means Dry Lake became "Hammertown," home to more than 45,000 visitors- including more than 400 racing teams, event staff, vendors, and plenty of excited fans.



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A crowd of OHV competitors at King of the Hammers event in Johnson Valley (Photos by Charles Yudson and Dana Wilson, BLM)

Each day events featured a different class of vehicle including motorcycles and side by sides. On Thursday was the “every man” challenge, open to anyone with a 4 wheel drive vehicle and a desire to compete. Friday was the main event, featuring Ultra4 racers. These cars come in all shapes and sizes and are capable of speeds over 100+ MPH and still contain gear ratios as low as 100 to 1 for technical rock crawling.

BLM employees from the Barstow Field Office were on hand to monitor the event and ensure the event complied with the required Special Recreation Permit while BLM Law Enforcement ensured visitor safety. The BLM worked alongside state and local agencies, such as San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (Morongo Basin Station, Victor Valley Station and Code Enforcement), California Highway Patrol, California State Parks (OHMVR Division), and San Bernardino County Fire Department, to maintain a safe environment for the public.



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OHV competitors at King of the Hammers event in Johnson Valley (Photos by Charles Yudson and Dana Wilson, BLM)

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) was available to speak with the public regarding Public Law 113-66 (National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014), which authorized the expansion of the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat center into parts of Johnson Valley. Of the original 188,000 acres in Johnson Valley, 88,000 acres were designated exclusive use for military training operations and 3,000 acres as shared use operated by the BLM for 10 months of the year and used by the USMC for the other 2 months. The 96,000 acre Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area is the first Congressionally designated OHV area in the nation.

Each year, the King of the Hammers attracts more and more participants and international teams to this true test of man and machine against the elements. The BLM, USMC, and the public are already planning and excited for next year's 10th Annual King of the Hammers.